

Remarks

Claims 25, 32-45, 48 and 49 are currently pending. Claims 25, 45, 48 and 49 have been amended to include the limitations of claim 31. Accordingly, claim 31 has been cancelled. In addition, claims 26-30 and 46-47 have been cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been added. In view of the amendments above and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration by the Examiner, and advancement of the application to allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 25-27, 42, 43 and 46-49 as being anticipated by Ogiso et al. (US Pat. No. 6,106,999). The Examiner also rejected claims 25-30, 38-40, 42, 43 and 46-49 as being anticipated by Bressler et al. (US Pat. No. 5,694,852). Finally, the Examiner rejected claims 46 and 47 as being anticipated by Pfann et al. (US Pat. No. 3,395,121). As noted above, Applicants have amended independent claims 25, 45, 48 and 49 to include the limitations of claim 31 and have cancelled claims 46 and 47 thus rendering the anticipation rejections moot.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 25-30, 36, 38-43 and 45-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bressler et al. Applicants traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

Independent claims 25, 45, 48 and 49 of the present application have been amended to include the limitations of claim 31 thus rendering this rejection moot. Furthermore, Bressler et al. neither teaches nor suggests an actinic radiation curable composition containing a stabilizer selected from the group consisting of borane

ammoniac complex, borane triethylamine complex, borane tributylphosphine complex, borane trimethylamine complex, borane triphenylphosphine complex, borane tributylamine complex, borane N,N-diethylamine complex, borane N, N-diisopropyl ethylamine complex, borane dimethylamine complex, borane N-ethyl-N-isopropyl aniline complex, borane 4-methyl-morpholine complex, borane 4-ethylmorpholine complex, bis-(triethylborane) 1,6-diaminohexane complex, trichloroborane N, N-dimethyloctylamine complex, trichloroborane N, N-dimethyloctylamine complex, trichloroborane triethylamine complex, trichloroborane pyridine complex, trichloroborane benzylamine complex, irontrichloride triethylamine complex, irontrichloride pyridine complex, and irontrichloride N, N-dimethyloctylamine and being present in the actinic radiation curable composition in an amount of between 0.001 weight % to 0.3 weight % or methods of curing or stabilizing such a composition as is presently claimed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully requests the obviousness rejection based on Bressler et al. be withdrawn.

The Examiner also rejected claims 25-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinmann et al. (US Pat. No. 5,476,748) in view of Pfann et al. Applicants traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

Steinmann et al. neither teaches nor suggests the stabilizers recited in claims 25, 45, 48 and 49. While it is true Pfann et al. does teach boron trichloride/tertiary amine complexes, Pfann et al. teaches that such boron trichloride/tertiary amine complexes are used as latent curing agents, and in particular, are used at amounts of 0.5 to about 10 parts per 100 parts of epoxy resin by weight. See *US Pat No 3,395,121* at col. 2, lines 29-35.

In contrast, the borane and iron-containing compounds recited in claims 25, 45, 48 and 49 of the present invention are used in an entirely different manner (i.e. as stabilizers) and are therefore used in much smaller amounts (i.e. 0.001 to 0.3 wt. % based on the total weight of the curable composition) than the amounts taught in Pfann et al. (i.e. 0.5 to 10 parts per 100 parts of epoxy resin by weight).

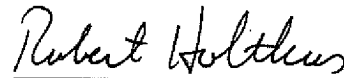
Moreover, Applicants have surprisingly found that an actinic radiation curable composition is produced having superior storage stability when (A) at least one actinic radiation curable cationically polymerisable compound and (B) at least one cationic photoinitiator are combined with (C) the recited stabilizers at the claimed amount,. In particular, as demonstrated in Table 6 and Examples 7-17 of the present application, the incorporation of the stabilizers of the present invention at amounts between 0.001 weight % to 0.3 weight % produces a composition that is storage stable for at least 24 days in comparison to compositions which do not contain the stabilizer (composition gels at 11 days) or compositions which contain the stabilizer at amounts greater than 0.3 weight % (compositions gel within 1 day). This is neither taught nor suggested in the publications cited above nor was it expected by the Applicants. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 25, 45, 48 and 49, and all claims depending on these claims, are not obvious in view of the publications cited above and respectfully request the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an issuance of a Notice of Allowance directed towards the pending claims.

Should any fee be due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to deduct said fee from Huntsman Corporation Deposit Account No. 08-3442.

Respectfully Submitted,



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